

FAS – Office of Global Analysis (OGA)  
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
International Operational Agriculture Monitoring Program



**Week 3 Summary**

- 1 Production for MY 2008/09 winter wheat and barley crop is forecasted to be lower than the previous year, particularly in the northern rainfed governorates due to poor precipitation during the planting and establishment of winter grains.
- 2 Army Corps ERDC Euphrates/Tigris River Watershed Assessment for April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 stated that the lower watershed basins received less than normal precipitation. Temperatures over the watershed were also reported to be well above normal. All major reservoirs in Iraq are reported to be at extremely low levels compared to the last 4 years.
- 3 AFWA weather data extracted from USDA Crop Explorer (<http://www.pecad.fas.usda.gov/cropeexplorer/>) showed that decadal precipitation between April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 and April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008 was significantly less than normal. Average decadal temperatures are also noted to be above normal for the same time period (Figure 1).
- 4 MODIS NDVI (Crop Abundance Map) for the time period of March 21<sup>st</sup> – April 5<sup>th</sup> showed significant departures from the 9-Year average with significantly less crop cover in most of the northern rainfed governorates (Figure 2). The central and southern irrigated governorates showed relatively little change from the 9-year average, except for large isolated areas of decrease in the provinces of Diyala and Wasit (Figure 3).
- 5 Crop abundance maps derived from AWiFS moderate resolution and Quickbird high resolution imagery over the provinces of Dahuk and Erbil revealed areas of good crop coverage. However, a regional perspective map showed that the majority of cropland for the northern provinces remains sparse, especially in the governorate of Ninawa which is historically the largest producer (Figure 4).

\* Provincial cropland area statistics will be updated before the May pre-lockup report.

Release date: April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008

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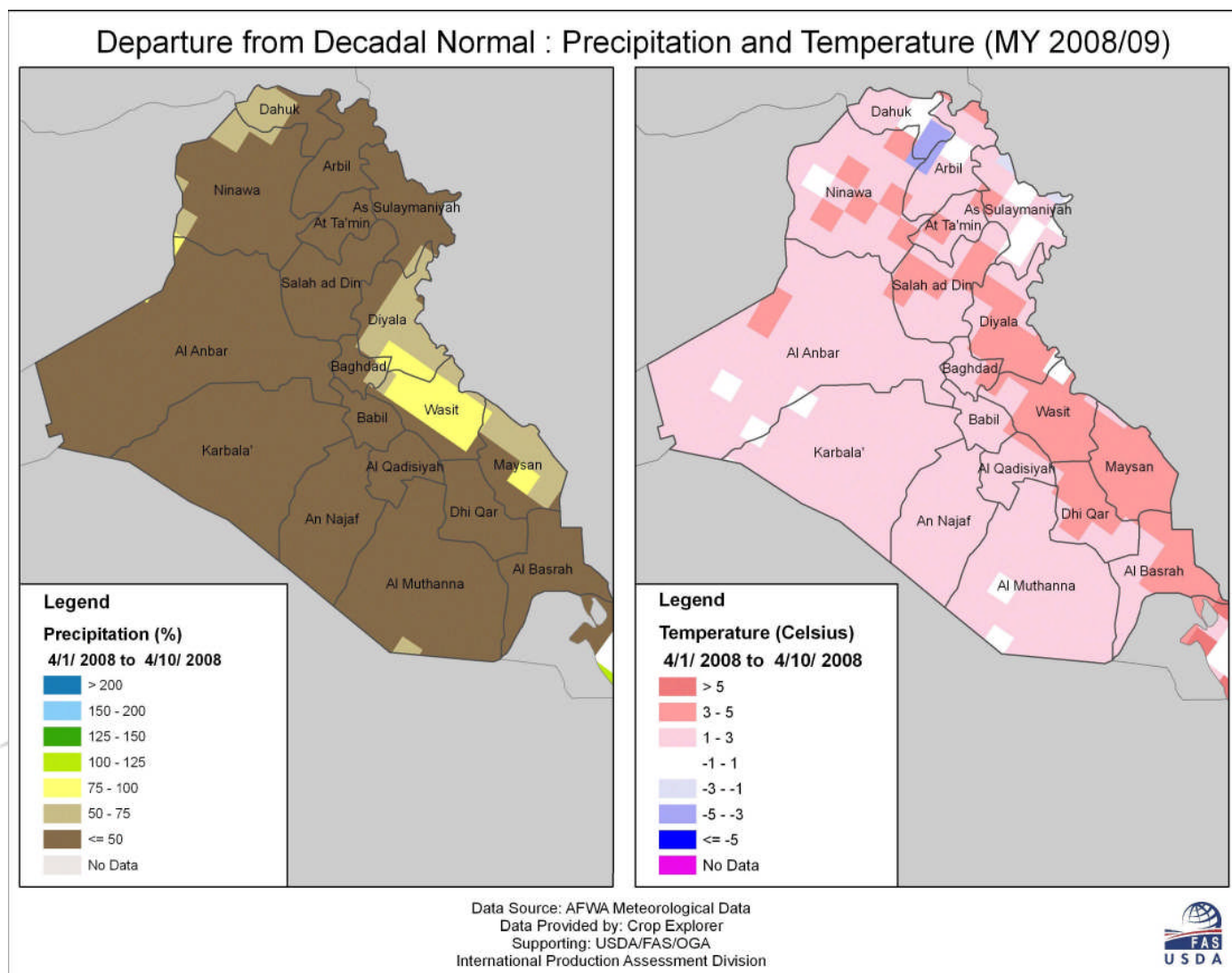


Figure1: Precipitation and temperature departure from normal for the 1<sup>st</sup> dekad of April.

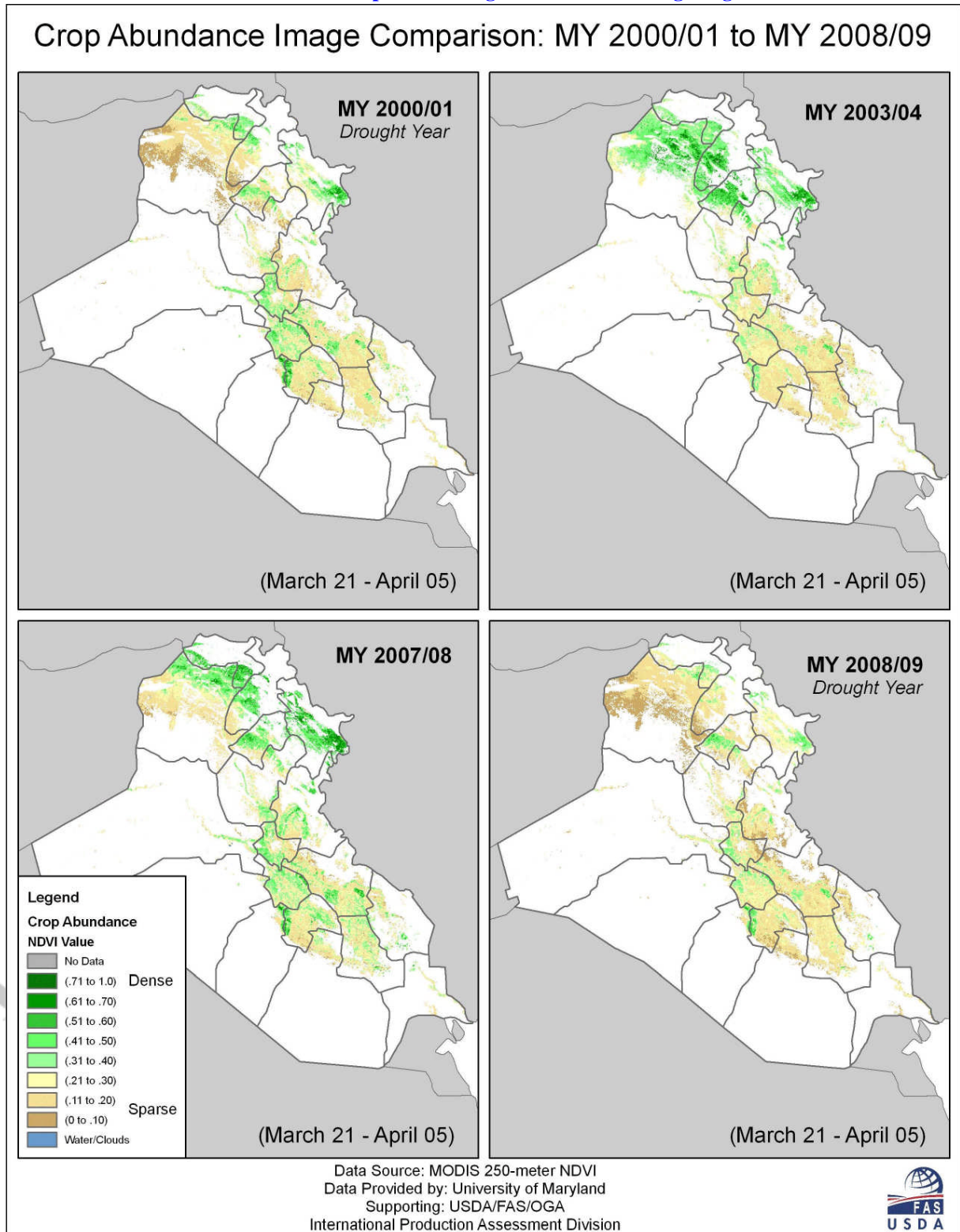


Figure2: MODIS NDVI comparison from MY 2000/01 to MY 2008/09.

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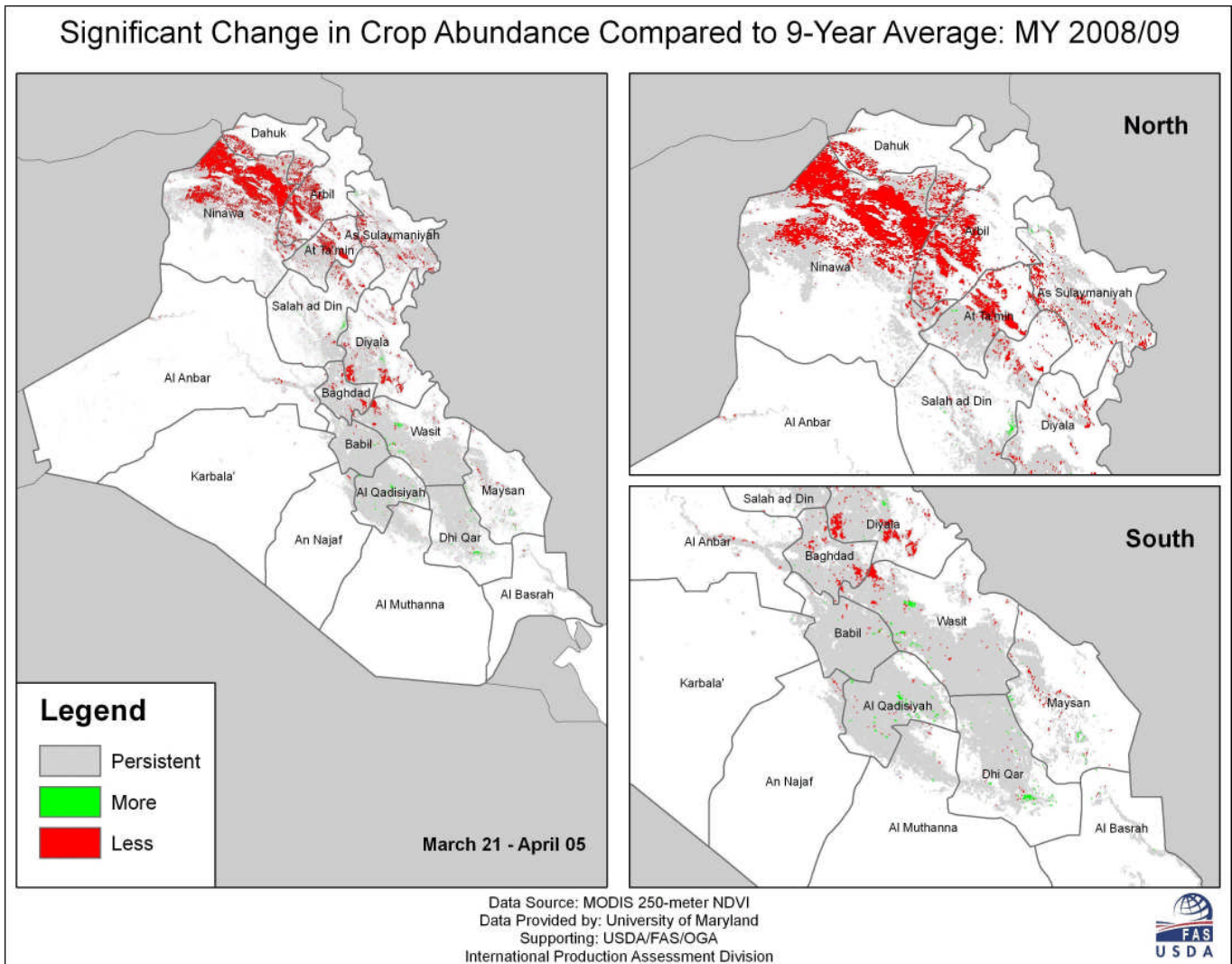


Figure 3: MODIS NDVI departure from the 9-Year Average: March 21<sup>st</sup> –April 5<sup>th</sup>



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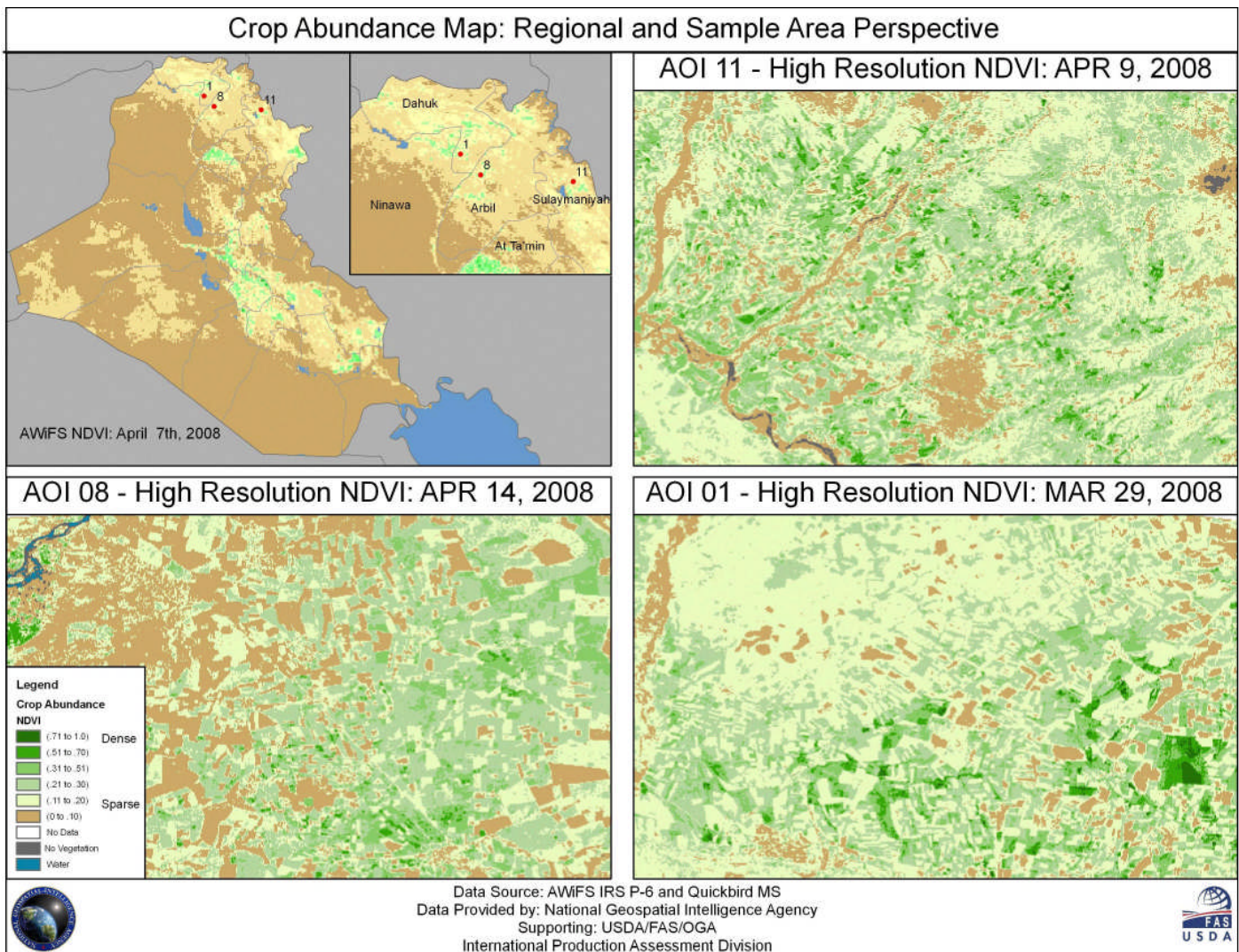


Figure 4: Regional and specific crop abundance maps derived from Quickbird high resolution and AWiFS IRSP6 moderate resolution imagery.